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What is claimed is:

1. Calender for calendering a web of paper or board,
the calender comprising
- 5 - a top roll (1) and a bottom roll (2), both of
the rolls being of the variable-crown type,
- 10 - at least one intermediate roll (3) of an inter-
mediate roll stack adapted between said top roll
(1) and said bottom roll (2) in a disposition
allowing the superimposed rolls (1, 2, 3) of the
stack to be brought into a nip contact with each
other during calendering, and
- 15 - bearing blocks (4) in which said rolls (1, 2,
3) are mounted, and
- 20 - mounts (5) to which the bearing blocks (4) of
the intermediate roll (3) are connected and
which are slidably connected to the guides (7)
adapted to the calender frame (6),
- 25 characterized by actuator means (9, 19)
adapted between the mounts (5) of said superimposed
rolls (1, 2, 3) forming said nips and/or between the
bearing blocks (4) of said rolls so as to accomplish
the relief of nip loading imposed by the weight of
said intermediate rolls (3) and the auxiliary means
30 connected thereto.
- 35 2. Calender according to claim 1, characterized
in that said actuator means is a spring
(9).

3. Calender according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said actuator means is a hydraulic cylinder (19).
- 5 4. Calender according to any one of foregoing claims 1-3, characterized in that said actuator means are adapted to function between the mounts (5) of said superimposed rolls (1, 2, 3) forming said nips.
- 10 5. Calender according to any one of foregoing claims 1-4, characterized in that said actuator means are adapted to function between the bearing blocks (4) of said superimposed rolls (1, 2, 3) forming said nips.
- 15 6. Calender according to claim 3, characterized in that said mount (5) includes the cylinder portion of said hydraulic cylinder (19) with the hydraulic channels thereof.
- 20 7. Calender according to claim 3 or 6, characterized in that said bearing block (4) includes the cylinder portion of said hydraulic cylinder (19) with the hydraulic channels thereof.
- 25 8. Method for calendering a web of paper or board, the method comprising the steps of
- 30 - passing the web to be calendered via nips formed by a variable-crown top roll (1) and a variable-crown bottom roll (2), as well as at least one intermediate roll (3) of an intermediate roll set placed between said rolls, said rolls (1, 2, 3) being mounted in a bearing blocks (4) and the bearing blocks (4) of the
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intermediate roll (3) being slidably connected to the calender frame (6),

c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that

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- the nip loading imposed by the weight of said intermediate rolls (3) and the auxiliary means connected thereto is relieved by actuator means (9, 19) adapted between the mounts (5) of said superimposed rolls (1, 2, 3) forming said nips and/or between the bearing blocks (4) of said rolls.

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9. Method according to claim 8, c h a r a c t e r -
i z e d in that said actuator means (9, 19) serve
to accomplish an at least essentially complete
relief of the nip loading imposed by the weight of
said intermediate rolls (3) and auxiliary devices
connected thereto.

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